

California Field Crop Review



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CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 1999

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for dry edible beans, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, all types of hay, and cottonseed. All potatoes were below the previous month. Mid-February prices for wheat, barley, and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans. All potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, and all types of hay were below February 1998's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS ONE POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 96 based on 1990-92=100, down one point (1 percent) from January. Price decreases from January for milk, soybeans, tomatoes, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, oranges, and potatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs more than offset the relatively lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. These seasonal marketing changes limited the decline in the overall index.

Compared with February 1998, the All Farm Products Index was five points (5 percent) lower. Price decreases from February 1998 for corn, soybeans, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, oranges, broilers, and almonds.

The February All Crops Index was 97, down 1 percent from January and 11 percent below February 1998. From January, price decreases for oilseeds, vegetables, feed grains, and food grains more than offset price increases for potatoes, dry beans, tobacco, and fruit and nuts.

The February Food Grains Index, at 101, was unchanged from the previous month, but was 14 percent below February 1998. The February all wheat price, at \$4.53 per cwt., was down 14 cents from January and 92 cents below February 1998.

The February Feed Grains and Hay Index was 90, was down 1.1 percent from last month and 20 percent below February 1998. The corn price, at \$3.59 per cwt., was down 9 cents from January and 96 cents below the February 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$79.00 per ton, was up 20 cents from last month, but \$17.10 below February 1998.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{a/}

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 1998	January 1999	February 1999	February 1998	January 1999	Feb. 15, 1999
		Dollars					
Corn ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.55	3.68	3.59
Wheat ^{b/}	Cwt.	^{c/}	^{c/}	^{c/}	5.45	4.67	4.53
Oats ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.00	3.78	3.63
Barley ^{b/}	Cwt.	5.83	^{c/}	^{c/}	5.04	3.83	4.04
Sorghum Grain ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.05	3.05	3.04
Rice ^{b/}	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.75	9.05	9.11
Dry Edible Beans ^{b/}	Cwt.	28.60	39.40	39.80	21.20	19.80	19.10
All Potatoes ^{d/}	Cwt.	12.30	12.90	11.00	5.94	5.32	5.75
Winter	Cwt.	22.40	20.90	21.30	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.00	7.15	7.20	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	123.00	78.00	82.00	96.10	78.80	79.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	125.00	79.00	83.00	105.00	81.40	82.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	99.00	50.00	67.00	76.80	71.00	70.40
Upland Cotton Lint ^{b/}	Lb.	0.713	0.692	^{c/}	0.625	0.583	0.571
Cottonseed	Ton	---	180.00	199.00	107.00	139.00	141.00

^{a/} The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. ^{b/} Previous month revised to monthly average. ^{c/} Not published to avoid possible disclosure. ^{d/} Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	640	617 ^{a/}	608	101	97 ^{a/}	96
All Crops	538	483 ^{a/}	477	109	98	97
Food Grains	372	319 ^{a/}	321	117	101 ^{a/}	101
Feed Grains and Hay	405	324 ^{a/}	321	113	91 ^{a/}	90
Cotton	528	493 ^{a/}	483	103	96 ^{a/}	94
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	519	478 ^{a/}	501	102	94 ^{a/}	99
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates ^{b/}	1,555	1,534 ^{a/}	1,538	117	115 ^{a/}	115
Parity Ratio ^{c/}	41	40 ^{a/}	40	86	84 ^{a/}	83

^{a/} Revised. ^{b/} All production indexes as of 15th of month. ^{c/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS

Fall potatoes in California storage facilities totaled 1.60 million cwt. as of March 1, 1999, 11 percent less than a year ago.

California's March 1 stocks remained the same as the previous year at 43 percent of the fall potato production.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS BY STATE

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1998	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 1999 1/	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	4,200	1,800	43	3,708	1,600	43
Colorado	24,993	12,800	51	25,360	11,800	47
Idaho	140,314	69,500	50	139,650	67,500	48
Maine	19,080	10,300	54	18,060	8,450	47
Michigan	14,250	3,800	27	14,725	3,900	26
Minnesota	20,440	8,800	43	21,170	8,900	42
Montana	3,328	2,350	71	3,180	2,650	83
Nebraska 2/	7,761	2,430	---	8,175	2,500	---
New York	7,150	800	11	7,290	900	12
North Dakota	22,000	9,300	42	28,670	11,800	41
Ohio 2/	1,170	---	---	1,200	---	---
Oregon	27,319	13,000	48	26,229	13,000	50
Pennsylvania	3,173	890	28	3,360	600	18
Washington	88,160	29,500	33	93,225	29,500	32
Wisconsin	30,175	10,600	35	30,895	11,000	36
15-STATE TOTAL	413,513	175,870	43	424,897	174,100	41

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1999 crop. Seed usage in 1998 totaled 30.0 million cwt.

2/ Combined Nebraska and Ohio to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

CROP	UNIT	YIELD				PRODUCTION			
		1997	1998	Record High	Record Year	1997	1998	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.37	1.44	1.68	1995	205,200	180,000	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	22.70	19.50	22.70	1997	3,000,000	2,048,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	4.76	4.48	4.76	1994/1997	1,261,400	1,164,800	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	1,202.00	890.00	1,359.00	1992	2,191,000	1,150,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	942,000	547,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.57	5.17	5.57	1997	8,408,000	8,115,000	8,652,000	1988
Alfalfa	Tons	7.20	6.50	7.20	1997	6,840,000	6,630,000	7,260,000	1988
Other	Tons	2.80	2.70	3.50	1995	1,568,000	1,485,000	1,855,000	1995
Oats	Tons	1.28	1.20	1.36	1995	38,400	36,000	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	365.00	327.00	381.00	1986	15,948,000	13,703,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	82.50	68.40	85.00	1992/94	42,546,000	32,698,000	42,546,000	1997
Sugar Beets	Tons	30.00	29.00	30.00	1997	2,970,000	2,900,000	9,031,000	1972
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	205.00	205.00	225.00	1996	1,989,000	1,866,000	2,160,000	1996
Wheat, All	Tons	2.30	2.09	2.53	1988	1,250,400	1,156,500	3,166,350	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.